

Alberta's Proud Prohibition Record

THE GOLDEN STAIR

Export Liquor warehouses closed out, dispensing of all liquor prescriptions in Edmonton and Calgary taken from drug stores, and entrusted to Government liquor stores—one in each city.

1923

A Commissioner—E. S. Bishop—appointed to promote the enforcement of the liquor act—Federal Government agrees to cancel license of any brewery against which are registered 3 convictions for violation of provincial laws. Drastic action taken to curtail abuses, re extracts and tinctures. Co-operation of Federal and Provincial authorities established in. Suppressing illicit stills by the appointment of 25 provincial police as inland revenue officers.

1922

Doctor's prescriptions reduced from 150 to 100 per month and veterinary supplies from 1 gal. per day to 1 gal. per month.

1921

An Act prohibiting the importation of alcoholic liquors for beverage purposes carried — majority 18,596.

1920

Provincial Prohibition Liquor Act carried by a majority of 20,789.

This act wiped out: 250 hotel licenses; 427 bar-tenders' licenses; 11 club licenses; 3 dining-car licenses; 22 salesmen's licenses and 51 wholesale liquor store licenses.

1915

1898

Dominion plebiscite on prohibition—majority for prohibition—377.

Expenditure on Liquor

1915—(under license) about \$14,000,000.

1920—(under prohibition) about \$5,000,000.

This latter estimate, made by the late Attorney-General, J. R. Boyle, includes the amounts expended through drug stores, wholesale liquor stores and bootleggers.

Liquor Prescriptions

The Government reports for 1922 a decrease on 1921, of at least 65,000 prescriptions.

Breweries - Bootleggers Interdicts

1915—7 Breweries in Alberta with a yearly output of high-power beer valued at \$1,275,000.

1923—5 Breweries manufacturing 2½%, each brewery with 2 convictions against it.

1915—(under license)—751 BOOTLEGGERS convicted—The bootlegger is not a product of prohibition.

1915—(under license)—899 INTERDICTS in Alberta—No Indian list now—No D. T. wards in hospitals.

Jails and Jail Population

1915—2 Provincial jails, 1 penitentiary, a jail at Macleod, and 4 mounted police guard rooms.

Total population of these institutions, Dec. 31st, 610.

1922—Only 2 jails—Lethbridge and Fort Saskatchewan—with total jail population, Dec. 31st, 336.

Crime in Alberta

(From criminal statistics of Canada)

	Under License		Under Prohibition	
	1913	1914	1920	1921
Summary Convictions	17,513	16,806	7,219	8,571
Indictable Offences	1,913	2,237	1,240	1,276
Total of all Offences	19,426	19,043	8,459	9,847

Convictions for Drunkenness and Allied Crimes

	1913	1914	1920	1921
Drunkenness	7,283	5,710	1,536	1,833
Vagrancy	1,539	2,119	278	517
Assaults	979	1,017	348	391
Breaches of the Peace..	160	409	94	15
Loose, Idle and Disorderly	345	656	49	203
Keeping and frequenting Bawdy Houses	561	623	101	97
Cruelty to animals	141	165	45	30
Indecent Exposure	36	64	8	25
Insulting, profane and obscene language	62	64	13	17
Totals.....	11,106	10,827	2,472	3,133

NOTE:—The above decrease in Crime has occurred while the population has increased from 374,663 in 1911, to 581,995 in 1921.

U.F.A. Reply

The U. F. A., representing the largest group in Alberta, at its convention—Jan. 19, 1923—passed the following *unanimous resolution*, which also voices the sentiment of many other groups:

“Resolved, that we view with appreciation and satisfaction the attitude of the present Attorney-General’s department regarding the enforcement of the Liquor Act, but we realize the fact that in the task it has undertaken it must have the hearty co-operation of the citizenship of the Province. To this end we urge our locals throughout the Province to use all their influence in the direction of law-enforcement and to carry on a campaign of education, both among children and adults, that will cultivate a sentiment in favor of total abstinence and prohibition, as well as respect for all law:

“Be it further resolved, that we place ourselves on record as being *unalterably opposed to any policy of Government sale* of liquor for beverage purposes, and that we do all in our power to discourage the idea of so-called Government control of the liquor traffic:

“And be it further resolved that we would *DEPLORE* any weakening of the *present Alberta Liquor Act.*”